



Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission
An association of local governments providing planning, programs and services for the region

October 11, 2001

Mr. Christopher Jones
Director
Ohio Environmental Protection Agency
122 South Front Street
Columbus, Ohio 43215

Michael R. Rankin
Chair

R. Thomas Homan
Vice Chair

Timothy C. Hansley
Secretary

Dear Director Jones:

Enclosed please find the resolution endorsing the Columbus Metropolitan Facilities Plan Update that was passed today by the Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission. This resolution was requested by Mayor Coleman after you expressed to him the value of MORPC stating its position on this.

Bill Habig
Executive Director

Forty members were present, and only two "no" votes were noted. This shows us here at MORPC that there is overwhelming local government support for the Columbus Facilities Plan.

If you have any questions regarding the Commission meeting or the resolution, please call me at 233-4102.

Sincerely,

William C. Habig
Executive Director

Enclosure

c: Steve Campbell
John Douth
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MEMORANDUM

Officers and Board Members
Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission

FROM: William C. Habig

DATE: October 4, 2001

Proposed Resolution 23-01 – “TO URGE THE DIRECTOR OF THE OHIO ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY (EPA) TO INCORPORATE THE COLUMBUS METROPOLITAN FACILITIES PLAN UPDATE (NOVEMBER 3, 2000) INTO ALL RELEVANT SECTION 208 AREA-WIDE WASTE TREATMENT PLANS AND TO AMEND THE STATE’S WATER QUALITY MANAGEMENT PLAN TO REFLECT THIS INCORPORATION WITHIN THE EARLIEST POSSIBLE TIME FRAME.”

The Columbus 201 Water Quality Management Plan was presented to the Commission in November 2000 amid significant controversy. Since that time MORPC member municipalities have supported Columbus’ position on alternative wastewater treatment systems and have urged the Director of Ohio EPA to approve it.

This plan reaffirms Columbus’ federally designated 201 water quality management plan with some recent updates.

In recent years new technology has caused some to propose and obtain Ohio EPA approval of alternative wastewater treatment systems in nearby counties. This has raised several important issues as described within the attached resolution.

On September 21, 2001 Columbus and suburban municipal officials met with Ohio EPA director Chris Jones. After that meeting he asked about MORPC’s position on this matter. The attached resolution is intended to state a clear, supportive MORPC position on the Columbus facilities plan.

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RESOLUTION 23-01

"TO URGE THE DIRECTOR OF THE OHIO ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY (EPA) TO INCORPORATE THE COLUMBUS METROPOLITAN FACILITIES PLAN UPDATE (NOVEMBER 3, 2000) INTO ALL RELEVANT SECTION 208 AREA-WIDE WASTE TREATMENT PLANS AND TO AMEND THE STATE'S WATER QUALITY MANAGEMENT PLAN TO REFLECT THIS INCORPORATION WITHIN THE EARLIEST POSSIBLE TIME FRAME."

BACKGROUND: The city of Columbus submitted the Columbus Metropolitan Facilities Plan Update (November 3, 2000) to the Ohio EPA last November. The updated facilities plan addresses regional wastewater management needs through 2020. The overarching goal of this document is to provide a blueprint for protecting our water quality while meeting the demands of regional growth. The initial Columbus Metropolitan Facilities Plan for wastewater management was submitted by Columbus in 1976 and updated in 1984.

The Columbus Metropolitan Facilities Plan Update was compiled by the city of Columbus after significant public education and input on a draft plan. The city contacted over 70 organizations representing regional sanitary sewer districts, municipal and township officials, county commissioners, and other stakeholders.

WHEREAS, the Columbus Metropolitan Facilities Planning Area (FPA) is largely urban and suburban with population projections that forecast over 325,000 new residents will be added to the area within the next 20 years; and

WHEREAS, these existing centralized wastewater treatment systems, including those operated by the city of Columbus, the village of Canal Winchester, the city of Pickerington, Jefferson Water and Sewer District, Southwest Licking Community Water and Sewer District, Union County Sewer District, Citizens Utility Company of Ohio, and Fairfield County Water and Sewer District, have the capacity to treat wastewater from throughout the FPA; and

WHEREAS, area wide waste treatment management is recognized by Congress under the terms of the Clean Water Act to be the environmentally superior method of wastewater treatment; and

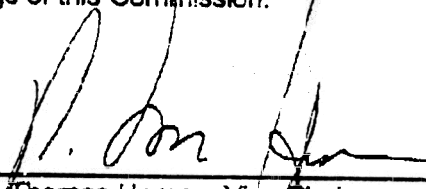
WHEREAS, alternative wastewater treatment systems, defined as those systems requiring an Ohio EPA Permit to Install, treating greater than 1500 gallons per day, and disposing of treated wastewater by a method other than a direct discharge to surface water under the authority of a National Pollutant Discharge Elimination system Permit, within the FPA distort and impede the development of the existing centralized sewer system, stranding the existing investment in sewer infrastructure and undermining the revenue base that supports the central system; and

WHEREAS, within the FPA, alternative wastewater treatment systems would promote the rapid conversion of remaining rural, agricultural land into developments of subdivisions at suburban densities, in direct contrast to good land use planning practice; and

WHEREAS, the city of Columbus presented the Columbus Metropolitan Facilities Plan Update to the Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission at its regular meeting on November 10, 2000; now therefore

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE MID-OHIO REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION:

- Section 1 That the Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission (MORPC) does hereby urge the director of the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency to incorporate the Columbus Metropolitan Facilities Plan Update (November 3, 2000) into all relevant section 208 area-wide waste treatment plans and to amend the state's water quality management plan within the earliest possible time frame to reflect this incorporation.
- Section 2. That the executive director is authorized to take such other action and execute and deliver such other documents as, acting with the advice of legal counsel, he shall deem necessary and appropriate to carry out the intent of this resolution.
- Section 3. That this Commission finds and determines that all formal deliberations and actions of this Commission concerning and relating to the adoption of this resolution were taken in open meetings of this Commission.



R. Thomas Homan, Vice Chair
MID-OHIO REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION

Effective date: October 11, 2001
Submitted by: Administrative Committee
Prepared by: William C. Habig, Executive Director
Revised by: Administrative Committee 10/04/01
Authority: Ohio Revised Code Section 713.21
For action date: October 11, 2001